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Dursley Rural District
Council.



ANNUAL REPORT

— OF THE —

Medical Officer of Health.

1925.

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Medical Officer's Annual Reports

With reference to the above-mentioned Reports recently sent you, the Medical Officer, Dr H. W. Adams of Bicester informs me that he inadvertently omitted to make any reference in such report to the matter of the Pollution of the River ~~Amse~~ Stream at Dursley.

The Secretary

Ministry of Health. Your obedient servant
Whitehall.

I am, Sir.

(Sgd) T. G. Franillon

London
SW1.

Dursley Rural District.

ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health, 1925.

DR. H. F. W. ADAMS.

I. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	26,876
Population (1921)	12,560
Rateable Value	£83,254
Assessable Value ($\frac{1}{4}$ land and buildings) =	£60,573
Sum represented by a penny rate	£237

Dursley Rural District is a large varied district containing the important town of Dursley, the town of Wotton-under-Edge, two large villages, Cam and Uley and a number of small villages scattered throughout the district. Thus, although entirely administered as a Rural District, it can be divided into two portions, one almost Urban, and the other strictly Rural.

There are a number of Industries in the District, notably Listers, Champions, Workmans, etc., which find employment for a large number of people.

The outlying parts are mainly agricultural.

II. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

BIRTHS—

		Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	216	117	99
Illegitimate	...	11	5	6
Birth Rate (R.G.)			17.8	

DEATHS—

Death Rate (R.G.)	12.1	69	85
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Number of women dying in, or
in consequence of childbirth ... from sepsis, Nil
from other causes, 6
(3 M. and 3 F.)

Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000
births :—

Legitimate 37 ; Illegitimate 363. Total 52.8

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	2 (F)	
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		1 (F)	

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1925.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.
Whooping Cough ... ... ...	...	2
Influenza	5	4
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ... ...	...	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	4	3
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	...	...
Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	9	13
Diabetes ... ... ...	...	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc. ...	7	16
Heart Disease	13	15
Arterio-Sclerosis	5	2
Bronchitis	2	4
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	3	4
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	1	...
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	1	...
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years) ...	...	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	...
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	1	...
Congenital Debility and malformation, premature birth ...	3	3
Suicide	1	...
Other deaths from Violence ...	3	2
Other defined Diseases ...	10	14
Total	69	85

From the foregoing tables and figures it will be seen that no excessive or unusual mortality occurred during 1925.

DISEASES of the CIRCULATORY SYSTEM again, as in past years, accounted for over 33% of the deaths (the actual figures being 58 deaths out of 154).

CANCER caused 22 deaths in 1925. In the past five years 86 people have died of this disease.

INFLUENZA caused nine deaths in 1925. This is an increase of the average of the past five years, viz.: 7.6. One death occurred from Sleeping Sickness (Encephalitis Lethargica).

No other special comments are necessary except to point out that one suicide occurred and five deaths from other forms of violence.

DEATH RATE :—12. is again good, though not to be compared with the excellent one of 9.4 in 1924. It is, however, below that for England and Wales, 12.2. The average death-rate for the district for the past five years is 11.4, a very satisfactory figure.

BIRTH RATE :—17.8 shows some improvement. It is below that for England and Wales, 18.3., and slightly above the average for the past five years, viz.: 7.5.

INFANT MORTALITY :—52.8 is only an average one for a mainly agricultural district. It is chiefly caused by the death of four illegitimate children under one year. The legitimate infant mortality being only 37.

The total figure for England & Wales for 1925 is 75.

The average total Infant Mortality for the past five years is 60.7. So it will be seen that the figure for 1925 is an improvement. In all 12 children died under one year in the district in 1925.

DURSLEY UNION.

Poor Law Relief Statistics, Year ended 31st Dec. 1925.

1. Average number of Persons in receipt of—				
(a) Domiciliary Relief	...	...	184	
(b) Institutional Relief	...	...	76	
2. Total sum expended on Domiciliary Relief during the year	...	...	...	£2,175
3. Average number per 10,000 of population in receipt of relief	...	...	...	207
4. MEDICAL RELIEF ONLY. The number of persons in the Union who receive Medical relief only is small.				

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The only hospital accommodation available is a small Isolation Hospital near Dursley. This is not permanently staffed, being opened at times of need. It is able to accommodate nine patients.

The nursing in the District is carried out by Nurses of the District Nursing Association, under the supervision of a full-time County Nurse. Much valuable work is done by them in the supervision of School Children, Midwifery and Tuberculosis visiting.

Bacteriological and Pathological Examinations are carried out in the laboratories of the Bristol University.

There is no ambulance, transport being improvised whenever an infectious case is removed to Hospital.

The Public Health Staff consists of a full-time Medical Officer of Health and a full-time Sanitary Inspector.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, Public Health Acts, Section 46. Public Health Amendment Act. There are Bye-laws for Slaughter Houses in force all over the district, and in the town of Dursley itself Bye-laws for Housing, Nuisances, Streets and Buildings.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES of the YEAR.

There is a public water supply to Dursley and Cam. The well which gives this supply has recently been deepened. The water is of good quality non plumbo-solvent. As far as Dursley is concerned all is satisfactory. There is, however, some dubiety about the Cam water supply, and a further exhaustive enquiry is being undertaken by the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector.

Wotton-under-Edge and Kingswood also have a public supply as has also the village of Coaley. The main from Ragwall to Coombe (Wotton-under-Edge) has been extended.

These public supplies are quite satisfactory and there is no shortage in any portion of the district supplied by them.

There is a shortage of water in North Nibley.

The water supply to the higher part of the district is excellent, but on the other hand that in the low-lying portion is not at the same level of excellence owing to the use of surface wells liable to pollution.

Eight new connections have been made with the public supply. Six bore holes have been sunk. Six samples of water have been taken for examination.

There is no pollution of any river or stream in the district.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Dursley and Cam possess a Sewage System which until recently was extremely efficient. Owing to the breaking down of the filter arms the Sewage has not in the past few months been treated in a satisfactory manner. The Council has engaged a competent engineer who is executing complete repairs and thoroughly overhauling the system.

Wotton-under-Edge also has an efficient Sewerage System which has just been considerably extended.

In the rest of the district no system of drainage is in existence. This renders the position at Kingswood unsatisfactory.

There are also great difficulties in rendering the ditches at Slimbridge sanitary, and constant inspection and cleansing operations have to be undertaken.

There is a system of refuse disposal in Cam, Dursley, Wotton-under-Edge and Kingswood.

The collection of pail closets in Wotton-under-Edge has been discontinued.

53 houses have been newly connected with the Sewers.

40 W.C's have been newly supplied with flushing cisterns.

Six notices have been served to empty "Privy Vaults."

14 Privy Vaults have been abolished.

NUMBERS INSPECTED OF EACH OF THE
FOLLOWING :

	No. on Register.	No. Inspected.	Total No. of Inspections.
(a) Common Lodging Houses	0	0	0
(b) Slaughter Houses	... 16	16	147
(c) Bakehouses	... 18	18	40
(d) Dairies, Cowsheds, Milk-shops	... 190	190	260
(e) Canal Boats	... 0	0	0
(f) Workshops	... 64	64	128
(g) Residences of out-workers	0	0	0

16 complaints have been received.

40 nuisances have been reported to the District Council. 32 of these were abated (eight not being considered nuisances).

This was done by means of 32 preliminary notices, and 18 Statutory notices.

One summons was taken out and one conviction obtained.

One nuisance with regard to swine was also reported and abated.

All the houses in which cases of notifiable diseases occurred were disinfected by means of Sanitas Lamps.

The Schools are all in good sanitary condition. With the exception of North Nibley and the two schools in Nympsfield, water is laid on or is in close vicinity.

HOUSING.

There is a considerable shortage of houses in the district. The existing property is in many cases old and difficult to adequately repair.

It has been estimated that 192 houses were required in the district as follows:—

DURSLEY, 50. These are in hand, there are 56 applicants requiring houses.

CAM, 50. These are in hand, there are 56 applicants requiring houses.

COWLEY, 8. These are in hand, there are cases of two or more families in one house.

NYMPSFIELD, 6. There is some overcrowding in this parish.

STITCHCOMBE, 10. There are 12 applicants and some degree of overcrowding.

ULEY, 10. There are some cases of overcrowding.

WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE, 30. There are 40 applicants and a certain degree of overcrowding.

KINGSWOOD, 20. Some overcrowding.

NORTH NIBLEY, 8. Some overcrowding.

The Council propose to build these houses in the various parishes and some are now in hand.

There are no unhealthy areas in the district.

HOUSING (continued).

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	9
(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme				...		Nil

1. UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	...	...	48
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	3
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	13

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	4
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

(A) Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919.					
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	9
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :—					
(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	9
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners...					Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...				Nil

ACTION UNDER STATUTARY POWERS (continued).

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied:—	
(a) by owners	All under the 1919 Acts.
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	

(c) Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909:—

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	3
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	...	...	...	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	Nil
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	Nil

INSPECTION and SUPERVISION of FOOD.

The milk supply in the district is good.

The Tuberculosis order of 1925 is in force in the district.

MEAT:—Notifications of Slaughter are sent on all occasions.

The 16 Slaughter Houses, eight of which are registered and eight licensed, are frequently inspected.

No case of food poisoning has occurred in the district in the past five years.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The notifiable diseases which occurred in the last five years are as follows :—

Small Pox	...	...	6
Diphtheria	...	...	21
Scarlet Fever	...	...	92
Enteric	...	...	11
Puerperal Fever	...	...	3
Pneumonia	...	...	100
Erysipelas	...	...	14
Sleeping Sickness	...	...	5
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...	...	1
Malaria	...	...	2

SMALLPOX.

The six cases all occurred in 1923. The first case contracted the disease in Gloucester City, while sickening for the disease she was staying in the Cirencester Rural District and conveyed the infection to two people in that area.

The next case was directly acquired from Gloucester City.

Three cases were next discovered in Slimbridge convalescent from Smallpox. They caused one other case in Dursley Rural District and two in the Wheatenhurst Rural District. The infection in the three Slimbridge cases were also definitely traced to Gloucester City.

These cases (except the convalescents) were isolated in Hospital.

DIPHTHERIA.

The 21 cases were scattered over the five years under review. They were all mild. No epidemics occurred.

SCARLET FEVER.

62 of the 92 cases occurred in 1921 and 1922 in or about Slimbridge. They were all mild. It was found very difficult to stamp this out owing to the difficulty of isolation, there being numbers of children in the houses, most of them susceptible and neighbours kept coming in and out. Various articles as books and toys were hidden away to reappear after the disinfection of the house and clothing.

The other 30 cases occurred in 1923, 1924 and 1925 and call for no comment.

ENTERIC.

As will be seen 11 cases occurred in the past five years. Three in 1921 occurred simultaneously in Uley, one died. The infection was traced to a contaminated stream running through the garden.

The other two in 1921 occurred in a large isolated house. A carrier amidst the family who had travelled extensively in the East was suspected, but no definite proof established.

Three cases occurred in 1922 having no connection one with another. One was caused from sewage, the man being a plumber.

The other three cases occurred one in each year, viz.: 1923, 1924 and 1925.

The 1925 case originated in Abyssinia.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

Three cases occurred in the past five years under review. One proved fatal.

PNEUMONIA.

100 cases were notified. It is satisfactory to find the notification of this disease is so thorough, although a falling off is noted in the past two years.

ERYSIPelas.

11 cases, these call for no comment.

SLEEPING SICKNESS.

Five cases occurred, three in 1924 and two in 1925. Two were fatal. No clue of the onset was discovered in any case.

Two were of a mild type.

The three who recovered are going on well, no disquieting sequelae have been noticed.

CEREBRO-SPINAL MERINGITIS.

One case occurred in 1923. This was fatal.

MALARIA.

The two cases notified occurred in 1921. They were men who had previously contracted the disease on service in India.

The Hospital accommodation, although strictly limited, has proved adequate during the past five years. In 1923 the Hospital was closed to all cases except Smallpox, fortunately no need for the isolation in Hospital of any other notifiable disease arose.

No use of the Schick or Dick tests has yet been made.

The state of vaccination in the district is distinctly poor, a great prejudice against this most valuable precaution existing chiefly in the comparatively uneducated classes.

No marked Influenza epidemic occurred (the deaths from this disease in five years being 38). No special enquiry was undertaken in connection with Influenza.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES during the YEAR.

DISEASE.		Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	...	5	1	0
Scarlet Fever	...	12	2	0
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)		1	0	0
Puerperal Fever	...	1	0	0
Pneumonia	...	15	0	0
Other diseases generally noti- fiable (specify disease):				
Erysipelas		1	0	0
Other diseases notifiable locally (specify disease):				
Sleeping Sickness		2	0	1
Tuberculosis:—				
(a) Pulmonary	M	5	4	4
	F	8	2	3
	Total	—	—	—
		13	6	7
(b) Non-pulmonary	M	2	2	0
	F	0	0	0
	Total	—	—	—
		2	2	0

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1925.

DISEASES.	Total Cases.						
	Under 1 year.	1 to 2 years.	2 to 5 years.	5 to 10 years.	10 to 20 years.	20 to 40 years.	40 years and over.
Diphtheria	...	5	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	12	0	0	0	0	0
Enteric	...	...	1	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	...	...	1	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia...	...	...	15	1	1	0	0
Erysipelas ...	...	...	1	0	0	0	0
Sleeping Sickness	...	...	2	0	1	0	0
	Total Deaths.	Under 1 year.	1 to 2 years.	2 to 5 years.	5 to 10 years.	10 to 20 years.	20 to 40 years.
	65	0	0	0	0	0	0
	45	0	0	0	0	0	0
	35	0	0	0	0	0	0
	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
	16	0	0	0	0	0	0

No infectious disease occurred in any house where overcrowding existed.

No special comment, beyond what has already been said, is necessary on these cases.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases.

Deaths.

Age Periods.	Pulmonary.				Non-pulmonary.				Pulmonary.				Non-pulmonary.			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	3	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	2	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	...	5	8	2	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The notification of Tuberculosis generally throughout the district is good. A few odd cases, mainly those of long standing, are omitted presumably owing to the fact that they have been presumed to have been notified before.

No case occurred where there was any overcrowding.

Each case as notified is visited by the Sanitary Inspector and by a nurse. If deemed necessary it is visited by the Medical Officer of Health.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

No provision of any clinics on these subjects is made in the district.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

No cases occurred in 1925. Indeed only one case occurred in the district in the past five years, this was in 1921. This case was treated at home and the vision was unimpaired.

